

over U.S. Patent No. 6,003,070 to Frantz et al. (hereinafter "the '070 patent"); and Claims 55-124 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '070 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,184,179 to Tarr et al. (hereinafter "the '179 patent").

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a separate letter requesting entry of substitute drawings, as well as a clean copy of the substitute drawings. Figures 1-12C have been amended to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84.

Applicants respectively traverse the rejection of Claim 77 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, with regard to the limitation "storing, internally, status information...." Figures 1-3 disclose internal storage units for business office devices (e.g., Flash memory 178, R 172, and disk 182) that are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.¹ Thus, Applicants submit that the original specification and drawings would enable one of ordinary skill to make and use the invention recited in Claim 77.

Claims 52-124 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on the disclosure of the '070 patent. The '070 patent was filed on February 25, 1997, and issued on December 14, 1999. However, the present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/916,006 filed on August 21, 1997, which, in turn, claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/463,002 filed on June 5, 1995. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '070 patent is unavailable as prior art against the claims in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejections of Claims 52-124 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

¹See also page 14, of the specification that discloses using those storage devices to store state/status information.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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